

What is Claimed Is:

1. A vehicle comprising:

an engine;

a CVT operatively coupled to the engine wherein the transmission has a continuous ratio

5 range;

an engine braking assist selector which may be activated by an operator of the vehicle;

and

10 a controller operatively coupled to the CVT and engine braking assist selector, the controller programmed with an engine braking algorithm wherein the controller implements the algorithm if the engine braking assist selector is activated and outputs a control to the CVT to alter the ratio of the CVT to produce engine braking in an amount selected by the engine braking assist selector.

2. The vehicle according to claim 1 wherein the engine braking assist selector has multiple

15 settings that the operator of the vehicle may select from to control the amount of engine braking provided.

3. The vehicle according to claim 1 wherein the engine braking assist selector comprises a multi-position switch.

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4. The vehicle according to claim 3 wherein the multi-position switch is located on a handlebar of the vehicle.

5. The vehicle according to claim 1 wherein the engine braking assist selector comprises a user selectable menu on an instrument panel of the vehicle.

6. The vehicle according to claim 1 wherein the engine braking algorithm is defined by the
5 equation,

$$X = ((\text{cut-in \%}) - \text{throttle position}) \times \text{bias ratio} + C,$$

where X is the increase in engine speed value as a percentage over normal operation, throttle position is measured as a percentage of throttle open position and C is a constant, where negative values of X are ignored.

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7. The vehicle according to claim 1 wherein the CVT is a rubber belt-driven CVT.

8. The vehicle according to claim 1 wherein the CVT is a steel belt-driven CVT.

15 9. The vehicle according to claim 1 wherein the CVT is hydrostatic.

10. An interface for rider selectable engine braking assist in a toroidal CVT, the interface comprising:

an engine braking assist selector; and

20 a controller receiving inputs from a throttle position sensor and an engine braking assist selector wherein if the throttle position sensor is above a predetermined reading, no engine braking is implemented but if the throttle position sensor is below the predetermined reading, an engine braking algorithm is implemented by the controller wherein the amount of engine braking

is dependent upon the output of the throttle position sensor and the output of the engine braking assist selector.

11. The vehicle according to claim 9 wherein the engine braking assist selector has multiple
5 settings that the operator of the vehicle may select from to control the amount of engine braking provided.

12. The vehicle according to claim 10 wherein the engine braking assist selector comprises a multi-position switch.

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13. The vehicle according to claim 12 wherein the multi-position switch is located on a handlebar of the vehicle.

14. The vehicle according to claim 10 wherein the engine braking assist selector comprises a
15 user selectable menu on an instrument panel of the vehicle.

15. The vehicle according to claim 10 wherein the engine braking algorithm is defined by the equation,

$$X = ((\text{cut-in \%}) - \text{throttle position}) \times \text{bias ratio} + C$$

20 where X is the increase in engine speed value as a percentage over normal operation, throttle position is measured as a percentage of throttle open position and C is a constant where negative values of X are ignored.

16. A continuously variable transmission (CVT) system comprising:

a rotatable input shaft coupled to an engine of a vehicle;

a rotatable drive clutch coupled to the input shaft, the drive clutch having

a laterally stationary sheave with an inner belt engaging surface,

a laterally moveable sheave with an inner belt engaging surface,

means for normally biasing the moveable sheave away from the stationary sheave

and for selectively moving the moveable sheave toward the stationary sheave in response to rotation of the drive clutch;

a rotatable output shaft coupled to a drive axle of the vehicle;

10 a rotatable driven clutch coupled to the output shaft, the driven clutch having

a laterally stationary sheave with an inner belt engaging surface;

a laterally moveable sheave with an inner belt-engaging surface, and

means for normally biasing the moveable sheave toward the stationary sheave;

and

15 an endless drive belt disposed about the drive and driven clutches, the belt having a pair of side drive surfaces engage able against the inner belt-engaging surfaces of the sheaves;

an engine braking assist selector; and

a controller programmed with an engine braking algorithm wherein when engine braking assist is requested, the controller will implement the algorithm and output a control to the CVT

20 to alter the ratio of the CVT to produce engine braking in an amount selected by the selector.

17. The vehicle according to claim 16 wherein the drive belt is a rubber drive belt.

18. The vehicle according to claim 16 wherein the drive belt is a steel drive belt.

19. The vehicle according to claim 16 wherein the engine braking assist selector has multiple settings that the operator of the vehicle may select from to control the amount of engine braking
5 provided.

20. The vehicle according to claim 16 wherein the engine braking assist selector comprises a multi-position switch.

10 21. The vehicle according to claim 20 wherein the multi-position switch is located on a handlebar of the vehicle.

22. The vehicle according to claim 16 wherein the engine braking assist selector is a user selectable menu on an instrument panel of the vehicle.

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23. The vehicle according to claim 16 wherein the engine braking algorithm is defined by the equation,

$$x = ((\text{cut-in \%}) - \text{throttle position}) \times \text{bias ratio} + C,$$

where x is the increase in engine speed value as a percentage over normal operation,
20 throttle position is measured as a percentage of throttle open position and C is a constant, where negative values of X are ignored.

24. A toroidal CVT comprising:

a rotatable input shaft coupled to an engine of a vehicle;

a rotatable input disc coupled to the input shaft,

a rotatable output shaft coupled to a drive axle of the vehicle;

a rotatable output disc coupled to the output shaft,

5 at least a pair of power rollers, each power roller having a spherical convex surface,

wherein each power roller is located between the input and output discs so that the convex peripheral surface of each power roller abuts an inner surface of the input and output discs,

a displacement shaft coupled to each power roller wherein; the displacement shafts pivot

each power roller so that the convex peripheral surface of each power roller may abut various

10 points on the inner surface of the input and output discs ranging from a maximum reduction

condition in which the convex peripheral surfaces abut the inner surface of the input disc at an

innermost edge thereof and against the inner surface of the output disc at an outermost edge

thereof to a minimum reduction condition in which the convex peripheral surfaces abut the inner

surface of the input disc at an outermost edge thereof and against the inner surface of the output

15 disc at an innermost edge thereof;

an engine braking assist selector; and

a controller programmed with an engine braking algorithm wherein when engine braking

assist is requested, the controller will implement the algorithm and output a control to the CVT

to alter the ratio of the CVT to produce engine braking in an amount selected by the selector.

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25. The vehicle according to claim 24 wherein the engine braking assist selector has multiple settings that the operator of the vehicle may select from to control the amount of engine braking provided.

26. The vehicle according to claim 24 wherein the engine braking assist selector comprises a multi-position switch.

5 27. The vehicle according to claim 26 wherein the multi-position switch is located on a handlebar of the vehicle.

28. The vehicle according to claim 24 wherein the engine braking assist selector is a user selectable menu on an instrument panel of the vehicle.